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United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

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Trade and Development Board
Sixty-first session
Geneva, 15–26 September 2014

Draft report of the Trade and Development Board on its sixty-first session

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 15 to 26 September 2014

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GE.14-16708 (E)

1416708

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President's summary

Opening statements

1. The following speakers made opening statements: the outgoing President (Indonesia) of the Trade and Development Board at its sixtieth session; the President of the Trade and Development Board at its sixty-first session; the Secretary-General of UNCTAD; the representative of Chad, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China; the representative of the Uruguay, on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of the Asian Group; the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, on behalf of the African Group; the representative of the European Union, on behalf of the European Union and its member States; the representative of Belarus, on behalf of Group D; the representative of the United States of America, on behalf of the JUSSCANNZ group; the representative of Benin, on behalf of the least developed countries; the representative of Sri Lanka, on behalf of the Group of 15; the representative of Barbados, on behalf of the small island developing States; the representative of Algeria; the representative of Switzerland; the representative of Côte d'Ivoire; the representative of Japan; the representative of Iraq; the representative of China; the representative of Thailand; the representative of the United States of America; the representative of South Africa; the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; the representative of Kenya; and the representative of Indonesia. The representative of the Arab NGO Network for Development made a statement.

2. The outgoing President (Indonesia) of the Trade and Development Board called on member States to ensure strong confidence in the global economy. The call for reforming international economic architecture in the wake of the global economic crisis had been persistent and insistent. He called for these assertions to be translated into action.

3. The President of the Trade and Development Board at its sixty-first session said the 50-year anniversary of UNCTAD was an achievement for development and promising for the future. She expected UNCTAD to continue to be relevant in the international sphere and efficiently add value in the field of trade and sustainable development for the next 50 years. She called on UNCTAD to closely follow the process on sustainable development goals, which would be adopted within one year, and analyse how the international trade and multilateral trading system should support achievement of the post-2015 sustainable development goals.

4. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD called for efforts to meet the Millennium Development Goals, while supporting the adoption of a far-reaching sustainable development agenda for the period up to 2030. He stressed the important role that UNCTAD would play in the post-2015 development agenda, encompassing the sustainable development goals. He recognized the value of UNCTAD technical cooperation contributions to member States. He drew attention to timely issues, such as inequality and climate change, which closely reflected the Doha Mandate in its focus on promoting development-centred globalization that was inclusive and sustainable.

5. The representatives of several regional groups and delegations expressed some concern that global recovery from the economic and financial crisis remained fragile and that the global economic system was in a profound state of dysfunction and incoherence. Trade and development were important ingredients in international affairs that should be addressed collectively. They called for proactive reform of the global economic system for both developing and wealthy countries. It was noted that interdependence and sustained

global economic recovery was premised on the fact that countries had comparative advantages that provided opportunities for all.

6. The representatives of many regional groups and delegations commended UNCTAD widely for the analysis and policy ideas in the *Trade and Development Report, 2014*. They endorsed the report, emphasizing that it would help political decision makers from developing countries to take necessary decisions to promote achievement of the sustainable development goals. They commended the report for recognizing the importance of global governance, policy space for development and interdependence.

7. The representatives of many regional groups and delegations noted that rising inequality through trade and development was one of the key post-2015 challenges. Overcoming this challenge was a prerequisite to attaining inclusive and sustainable development. They expressed appreciation for UNCTAD policy advice and encouraged the organization to continue to focus expertise on inclusive growth.

8. The representatives of several regional groups and delegations commended UNCTAD for its work on developing cross-divisional technical cooperation activities and capacity-building programmes, recognizing the important contributions made in customs and debt management through the Automated System for Customs Data and Debt Management and Financial Analysis System. They also commended UNCTAD's contribution to improving development strategies by expanding the knowledge and capacities of policymakers.

9. Some delegations noted support for UNCTAD's work on assisting the economic development of the Palestinian people through technical cooperation activities, for the UNCTAD report on assistance to the Palestinian people for its thoroughness and for offering concrete recommendations for facilitating economic development in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

10. A few delegates noted there had to be a balance between reserving policy space and the need to have a predictable and open multilateral system. Many countries that were now industrialized had been able to rapidly industrialize partly due to the lack of restrictions on their policy space.

11. The representatives of several regional groups and delegations cited the *World Investment Report 2014* as an example of UNCTAD's excellent research work and reaffirmed their appreciation of the report as a valuable source of information and analysis. The representatives of one regional group and one delegation commented that there could have been greater coherence and coordination among the authors of the *Trade and Development Report*, the *World Investment Report* and the *Economic Development in Africa Report* on messaging and findings related to foreign direct investment.

12. The representatives of two regional groups commended the choice of the theme of the *World Investment Report 2014: Investing in the SDGs: An Action Plan*.[1] Several delegations recognized the importance of private sector contributions, including foreign direct investment, to poverty reduction and economic growth in general, and recognized that the report's action plan should help stimulate the role of enterprises in contributing to sustainable development. One representative also observed that the *World Investment Report* would help policymakers take decisions on sustainable development issues and expressed expectation that capacity-building programmes would emanate from the report.

13. Noting that some countries faced difficulties in ensuring an environment conducive to attracting foreign direct investment, some delegations congratulated UNCTAD on its

[1] SDGs, sustainable development goals.

technical cooperation activities regarding investment policy, in particular capacity-building activities on international investment agreements through regional and national workshops. The representative of one regional group mentioned the forthcoming ninth advanced training in dispute resolution for Latin American countries at the end of 2014, as well as discussion on international investment agreements during the World Investment Forum. The representative of another regional group noted that UNCTAD had provided investment policy advice to over 185 countries and partnered with over 36 countries to complete Investment Policy Reviews.

14. The representative of one regional group appreciated the UNCTAD Geneva Dialogues, with the focus on a post-2015 development agenda, to harness the convening power of the organization in the Geneva trade hub. The representative also pointed to the importance of the Doha Round of negotiations in the World Trade Organization and asked to strengthen the role of UNCTAD as a platform for a candid and pragmatic exchange of ideas and solutions that could be fed into the ongoing World Trade Organization Doha Development Agenda negotiations.

15. The representative of another regional group mentioned the logical linkage between the post-2015 sustainable development agenda and the Doha Development Agenda negotiations, with the expectation of an early and fruitful conclusion to the negotiations and incorporation of trade into the post-2015 development agenda.

16. The representative of another regional group appreciated the UNCTAD secretariat document on trade and agriculture[2] and highlighted the importance of agriculture for the economies of his region in achieving inclusive and sustainable development.

17. The representative of another regional group highlighted the role of trade as an enabler for sustainable development, calling for the inclusion of qualitative and quantitative targets in order to assess sustainable development and pointed out the role of UNCTAD in qualitative assessments.

18. Some delegations highlighted the special needs of least developed country members in the ongoing Doha Development Agenda negotiations and the ministerial outcome in Bali, Indonesia.

19. Many delegations noted the role that science, technology and innovation could play in growth and development strategies in developing countries. One delegate argued that mobilizing science, technology and innovation was vital to achieving sustainable and inclusive development, along with providing access to education and promoting gender equality. Another delegate commented that new technologies had removed the traditional borders between countries and opened up new economic possibilities. Another delegate added that advances in information and communications technologies had facilitated the expansion of regional and global value chains. The representatives of two regional groups commented that African countries needed to join global value chains and use them to add more value locally and to diversify production. The representative of another regional group argued that it was essential to pay special attention to agriculture in the post-2015 development agenda and in particular to develop, transfer and disseminate agricultural technologies to rural areas of developing countries in order to reduce extreme poverty there.

20. One delegate stated that national regulatory and policy frameworks should enable industry to innovate, invest and use technologies to create employment and growth, arguing that intellectual property rights drove innovation, created an enabling environment for foreign direct investment and promoted technology transfer. However, another delegate

[2] TD/B/61/2.

asserted that since the introduction of the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights Agreement, innovation and access to technology had been constrained.

21. The representative of one regional group argued that the Agreement on Trade Facilitation of the World Trade Organization needed to be implemented more quickly in order to enable the least developed countries to better benefit from international trade.

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GE.14-16714 (E)

1416714

Please recycle

President's summary

High-level segment: Tackling inequality through trade and development: A post-2015 challenge

(Agenda item 3)

1. The panel was composed of the Minister for Trade and Industry of South Africa; a professor of development economics from the University of Florence, Italy; and the Special Adviser to the Deputy Director-General for Policy at the International Labour Office.

2. Discussing new developments in the world economy, two of the panellists and several delegates explored how those developments reflected a history of rising inequality that was counterproductive to economic growth and social cohesion. Globalization, which had clearly reduced poverty, had not promoted production and inclusive and participatory trade across the board.

3. Several delegates said that the *Trade and Development Report, 2014* spoke to urgent concerns about unemployment and inequality and put forward key policies to promote balanced and inclusive growth. There was a need to overcome the current division of international labour in which affluent countries provided capital goods and smaller, dependent nations continued to provide predominantly basic goods.

4. With regard to policy sequencing, one panellist and several delegates agreed that the absence of trade often had less to do with tariff rates than the mere ability to produce and trade. Priority should be given to new industries and infrastructure for the sake of intraregional trade, particularly in Africa.

5. Several delegations, including one regional group, said that domestic sources of investment flows were more effective in promoting sustainable development than foreign flows, which sought short-term returns. The discussion focused on how domestic policies could generate internal sources of savings. Encouraging harmony between foreign investment flows and domestic investment priorities could be accomplished with the aid of partnerships and matching funds.

6. Some delegations, including one regional group, noted that while domestic policies for promoting reduced inequality and equitable growth were essential, such policies could only have limited effectiveness in the absence of similar goals and policies at the international level, where policy space was being curtailed in multilateral and bilateral agreements.

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GE.14-16850 (E)
1416850

Please recycle

President's summary

Interdependence: Trade and development policy challenges for a sustained recovery of the global

(Agenda item 4)

1. Deliberations by the four-member panel under the agenda item focused on the global economic situation and the fragility of the recovery, against the background of chapters I, II and VI of *Trade and Development Report, 2014*. The policy mix applied in many advanced economies, which combined fiscal austerity, wage restraint and monetary expansion, had been ineffective. Instead, it had resulted in slow growth, weak employment and asset bubbles. There was wide agreement on the need to stimulate global demand, whose weakness explained slow growth in trade and output. In this context, the panellists highlighted that international trade alone could not be able to kick-start economic growth. International coordination of supportive macroeconomic policies had a clear potential to contribute to inclusive and sustainable growth.

2. The panellists noted that developing countries needed to look to new drivers of growth. On the demand side, a more balanced approach to development implied less reliance on export growth to developed countries and a larger role for domestic and regional markets and South–South integration. On the supply side, industrial policy and public investment in infrastructure and human capital were crucial for structural transformation and reducing dependence on commodities. Developing countries were strongly affected by international financial instability and needed to resort to capital account management, which was allowed in multilateral rules, but constrained in several bilateral trade and investment agreements.

3. Many delegations commended the UNCTAD secretariat for the high quality analyses and policy recommendations of the *Trade and Development Report, 2014* on the global economy, fragile recovery from the crisis and implications of international financial instability for developing countries. The analyses and policy recommendations were considered of high quality and relevant and useful to inform the deliberations of the Board. Several delegations concurred with the conclusions in the report, in particular regarding the need to increase aggregate global demand and to impose foreign capital controls. The issue of sovereign debt drew particular attention. Several delegations supported the longstanding UNCTAD proposal for and recent General Assembly resolution 68/304 on an international sovereign debt restructuring mechanism.

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GE.14-16893 (E)

1416893

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President's summary

Development strategies in a globalized world: Policymaking in an evolving framework of global governance

(Agenda item 8)

1. Under this item, chapters III, IV, V and VII and the Overview of the *Trade and Development Report, 2014* provided the background for discussion. Delegations widely acknowledged that the increased ambition in the post-2015 development agenda was combined with a less favourable external economic environment, requiring greater policy and fiscal space.

2. Many delegations agreed that multilateral efforts were crucial to maintaining and enlarging policy space. Striking the right balance between the benefits of international rules and the loss of policy space created a trade-off which, as one panellist emphasized, was for each government to evaluate. Institutional development was crucial for the effective use of policy and fiscal space, and some speakers called upon the international community to provide capacity-building to that effect. Additional international rules were desirable in the areas of finance and debt; in that respect, one delegate proposed making official development assistance mandatory for developed countries. Many speakers expressed concern about existing rules, especially those regarding arbitration under investment treaties that were often biased against host countries. However, such rules could be relaxed at the national level by renegotiating agreements, not renewing expiring treaties, or adopting national laws prior to the signing of new treaties to reduce the risk of governments being sued. The Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health had also indicated that existing agreements could be reformed.

3. The debate on fiscal space noted that foregone tax revenues were very substantial, emphasizing that tax space erosion was due to tax competition among States and tax avoidance by transnational corporations and wealthy individuals. One panellist called for an international rule that would make country-by-country reporting on the activities of transnational corporations mandatory. Several speakers welcomed ongoing initiatives towards greater transparency, such as those carried out under the auspices of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the African Union, but called for greater effort at the multilateral level to fully uncover tax avoidance and take account of developing country interests.

4. Many delegations considered the analyses and policy recommendations of the Report that focused on policy space for development to be timely, pertinent, comprehensive and useful for the debate. The issues addressed in the Report concerning trade, industrial and fiscal policies and the need for a global economic system that supported development were of major interest to developing countries. This was also true in the context of the post-2015 development agenda, where policy space was a fundamental variable for the definition of sustainable development goals. Many delegations said that UNCTAD had an important role to play in that process and that it should continue doing research and analysis – as well as supporting consensus-building – on policy space. A few delegations requested UNCTAD to enhance coherence in its research, while others considered that diversity of ideas was healthy for the Organization.

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GE.14-16998 (E)

1416998

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President's summary

Investment for development: Investing in the sustainable development goals

(Agenda item 9)

1. The session focused on the financing necessary to implement the sustainable development goals currently under negotiation, an action plan proposed by the UNCTAD secretariat on mobilizing and channelling investments to achieve the goals and related policy options at the national and international levels. The secretariat presented the key findings and recommendations of the *World Investment Report 2014: Investing in the SDGs: An Action Plan*, and four panellists spoke on various aspects of the topic.

2. In the discussion that followed, some regional groups highlighted rising foreign direct investment flows into their countries, but expressed concerns about varied country performance across groups.

3. Several delegations expressed appreciation of the concrete and action-oriented recommendations and ongoing contribution to data provision and research on foreign direct investment issues in the *World Investment Report* series.

4. Many delegations welcomed the focus on the sustainable development goals in the report as a significant contribution to the ongoing discussion on financing and implementing the goals and requested the UNCTAD secretariat to continue its work in this area. They particularly welcomed the policy recommendations and called for further technical assistance to developing member States to help maximize the benefits and minimize the risks of investment in the sustainable development goals. They also commended the report's action plan for encouraging the role of businesses in achieving future goals as a practical tool for enhancing the private sector's positive economic, social and environmental impacts.

5. Some delegations noted the importance of the private sector's contribution in financing the implementation of the sustainable development goals and necessary domestic reforms and other efforts. At the same time, several delegations emphasized the public sector's leadership role in the process, especially with regard to official development assistance.

6. Several delegates welcomed the upcoming World Investment Forum as a good opportunity to continue the discussion on investing in the sustainable development goals and recognized the Forum as a timely and important high-level gathering to facilitate dialogue and action on key emerging global challenges related to investment.

7. Many delegations requested the UNCTAD secretariat to continue analytical research on investment in sustainable development as well as technical assistance and capacity-building activities. They noted the importance of monitoring trends in foreign direct investment and providing concrete support for formulating policies to attract and benefit from foreign direct investment. In this context, they commended the UNCTAD Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development for providing concrete and action-oriented options for policymakers dealing with national and international investment policies. In particular, several delegations appreciated UNCTAD technical assistance on issues related to international investment agreements and the revision of model bilateral investment treaties. Several delegations also highlighted and commended UNCTAD Investment Policy Reviews for providing an objective evaluation of a country's legal, regulatory and institutional framework for foreign direct investment. Some delegations requested that UNCTAD continue technical assistance activities, including through capacity-building for foreign direct investment statistics.

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Please recycle

President's summary

UNCTAD contributions to the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields

(Agenda item 10)

1. The representatives of some regional groups highlighted the importance of the Monterrey Consensus of 2002 and the agreements reached at the follow-up Doha Review Conference in 2008. They stressed the need to meet key milestones and deliverables in preparation for the final agreement of the post-2015 development agenda. Mobilizing financial resources to finance inclusive growth and sustainable development was a key priority.

2. The representatives of some other regional groups encouraged UNCTAD member States and the secretariat to make a greater contribution to the broader work of the United Nations on the post-2015 development agenda. In this regard, they suggested formulating a clear and predictable programme of work, which included formal and informal meetings of the Trade and Development Board.

3. The representatives of some regional groups highlighted the UNCTAD Secretary-General's Geneva Dialogues series as a valuable forum in which to discuss issues related to the post-2015 development agenda in an informal setting.

4. The representatives of many regional groups commended UNCTAD's work for its relevance to challenges faced by member States and to discussions and ongoing United Nations work on the development agenda. They praised UNCTAD's work in the areas of international trade, commodities, investment, assisting countries in special situations, competition law and policy, transport and logistics, science, technology, innovation, including information and communications technologies, and technical assistance.

5. The representative of one regional group requested that UNCTAD give special attention to the challenges faced by small and medium-sized economies.

6. One delegation highlighted three development-related topics that UNCTAD should address within its work on sustainable development. The topics were a stable global economic system that gave priority to development, migration as a means of lifting households out of poverty and a country's ability to cope with natural and manmade disasters.

7. The representatives of some regional groups stressed the importance of preparing for UNCTAD XIV to be held in 2016, including drawing on UNCTAD's recent innovative work in the *World Investment Report* and on small island developing States and landlocked developing countries.

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GE.14-17252 (E)

1417252

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President's summary

Evolution of the international trading system and its trends from a development perspective

(Agenda item 7)

1. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD opened the session, organized around two panels, expressing support for fair, predictable, equitable and functioning multilateral trade rules. He assured continued support to member States, including through a "soft rules making" approach facilitated by UNCTAD work in areas such as competition law and policy.

2. The Secretary-General expressed concern that globally trade flows had not been increasing significantly, and that today world trade in goods and services remained far below the pre-crisis dynamism. Properly managed agricultural trade could contribute towards poverty eradication, food security, economic empowerment and maintaining ecosystems. There was a need for closer dialogue between the ongoing Doha Development Agenda negotiations at the World Trade Organization and the post-2015 goal-setting process.

3. The Director-General of the World Trade Organization elaborated on the situation in the World Trade Organization trade negotiations and post-Bali work programme and stressed the importance of completing the negotiations for enhancing food security and achieving development goals. The question that World Trade Organization members were trying to answer was not whether they could ensure their food security, but rather under which commonly agreed disciplines they could implement policies to achieve that goal without further distorting trade or aggravating food insecurity in third countries.

4. The representatives of several regional groups and delegations highlighted the importance of agriculture in their economies and international trading profiles and pointed out constraints which their countries faced in developing their agricultural sector and exports. Protectionist measures such as tariff rate quotas, tariff peaks, tariff escalation and strict sanitary and phytosanitary requirements were hindering the growth of trade in agriculture and moving up into the higher value added segment of agricultural production.

5. The representatives of many regional groups and delegations and the representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations noted that trade alone was not sufficient to develop an equitable and sustainable agriculture sector. Infrastructure investment, particularly in enabling services, developing credit facility for small farmers, enhancing supply capacity-building, increasing the involvement of the private sector, using higher technology and building confidence in the consumer market were all needed to develop the sector.

6. Some delegations stressed the importance of special and differential measures for developing countries in making international rules on trade in agriculture. Policy tools such as safeguards, border protection and green box subsidies remained important, particularly for LDCs and small and vulnerable economies. These countries had particular difficulty in developing competitive agriculture products given their small domestic market.

7. One panellist observed that, in Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development countries, domestic support measures had been decreasing and that main drivers for the decline were the costly nature of such measures and relatively high global commodity prices. This trend should not make countries complacent as international prices could fall and subsidies could increase.

8. Most delegations mentioned that the ongoing cooperation between UNCTAD, the World Trade Organization and the International Trade Centre should be strengthened to develop trade in agriculture in the context of the post-Bali work programme and post-2015 development agenda. UNCTAD should also increase its focus on agricultural trade, and UNCTAD XIV in Lima should include political dialogue for promoting a holistic approach to developing agriculture sector and international trade rules. Issues on price stabilization and food security should also be discussed.

9. One delegation suggested that focusing exclusively on agriculture trade would miss other important opportunities for promoting inclusive and sustainable development, particularly in the areas of trade in raw materials, manufactured goods, services and tourism.

10. The Board identified several common challenges and areas of intervention that could require UNCTAD assistance given its expertise and comparative advantage in translating trade policies into inclusive and sustainable development outcomes. These included the need to move to higher added value food production, diversifying countries' export structures, overcoming supply-side constraints and facilitating trade flows through related services sectors, competition and other enabling policies.

11. Some delegations also argued that trade was not enough to spur economic growth and alleviate poverty. Complementary policies at the domestic level, particularly in the areas of industrial, investment and competition policies, were necessary to ensure the positive effect of trade.

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GE.14-17144 (E)

1417144

Please recycle

President's summary

Report of the UNCTAD Public Symposium

(Agenda item 12 (b))

1. A representative of the Third World Network presented document TD/B/61/6 entitled "Report on the fifth UNCTAD Symposium: A better world economic order for equality and sustainable development post-2015". She said the Symposium had offered a valuable opportunity for civil society to exchange ideas and contribute to policy dialogue. Symposium participants had discussed the drivers behind widening inequality and the economic problems posed by such inequality. They had also explored how the economic crisis had exacerbated it.

2. The Symposium had addressed other critical issues such as the regulation of financial institutions in the public interest; the social and solidarity economy; the work of civil society organizations on tax justice; and how current trade and investment agreements made it more difficult for developing countries to achieve food security, diversify their economies and invest in public services.

3. In her view, the *Trade and Development Report, 2014* provided further analysis of many of the issues discussed at the Symposium. In particular, the Report showed how reduced policy space for developing countries had restricted their ability to tackle inequality and related problems.

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GE.14-17347 (E)

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President's summary

Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people

(Agenda item 11 (b))

1. Twenty delegates, including six groups, commended the secretariat's support to the Palestinian people. In their view, the Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people (TD/B/61/3) was excellent, as it was thorough, professional, impartial, factual, insightful, timely and transparent.

2. The representative of the secretariat said that even before the recent military confrontation in Gaza, the economy of the Occupied Palestinian Territory had deteriorated in 2013 and 2014. Further, the occupation of Area C had jeopardized the economic viability of the two-State solution. He listed recommendations for Area C and Gaza's reconstruction, which should not be confined to a humanitarian response, but should be extended to development and rebuilding the destroyed productive base.

3. The representative of the State of Palestine thanked UNCTAD for the Report and its support to the Palestinian people. Development could not be achieved while the occupying power continued to transform Palestine into a market for Israeli products. Gaza had been under persistent siege and had suffered three destructive wars in the past seven years. Israel continued to block the access of Palestinians to 75 per cent of their land in Area C and to misappropriate 85 per cent of the water in the West Bank. The international community should hold Israel accountable for the crimes it had committed and boycott all businesses related to settlements.

4. Most delegates expressed concern over the grave socioeconomic situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially with regard to its geographic fragmentation, the humanitarian toll of the Israeli military attack and siege of Gaza, poverty and unemployment, and the growing expansion of settlements.

5. Many delegates welcomed a press release[1] issued in September 2014 highlighting the consequences of the military attack on Gaza. Although it had not been covered in the Report, it was to be hoped that the issue would appear in future reports.

6. Several delegates called on Israel to shoulder its responsibilities under international law and end the recurrent military attacks on Gaza.

7. Most delegates concurred with the Report's assessment of the impact of the occupation of Area C and called for a fundamental change in policy to preserve the viability of the two-State solution.

8. The representative of the European Union and its member States said that it was the largest donor to the Occupied Palestinian Territory and remained committed to the two-State solution and to the Palestinian Authority as the foundation of the Palestinian State. For a durable solution to the Gaza crisis, there could be no return to the status quo, which was unsustainable.

9. Some delegates welcomed the conference on reconstructing Gaza, to be held by the Governments of Egypt and Norway in Cairo on 12 October 2014.

[1] http://unctad.org/en/pages/PressRelease.aspx?OriginalVersionID=204.

10. Many delegates expressed concerns about the status of Palestinian women, who, due to occupation, had the highest unemployment rates in the world and bore the brunt of occupation.

11. All twenty delegates commended UNCTAD for its technical assistance to the Palestinian people, which had proven to be a valuable model for capacity-building under adverse and severe conditions. Some delegates said that securing extrabudgetary resources remained critical for enhancing UNCTAD support to the Palestinian people.

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1417335

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President's summary

Follow-up to the Joint Inspection Unit report and the agreed conclusions of the twenty-sixth special session of the Trade and Development Board on 6 July 2012

(Agenda item 12 (a))

1. The Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD briefed member States on progress made by the secretariat in implementing the workplan agreed by the Trade and Development Board at its fifty-ninth session and indicated the specific measures and initiatives taken by the secretariat across the workplan's seven areas. He noted the additional measures, introduced by the UNCTAD Secretary-General since September 2013, aimed at creating a culture of continuous improvement in the secretariat, such as actions to further operationalize the results-based management framework and to strengthen internal accountability.

2. Many delegations welcomed the efforts and commitment made by the Secretary-General to enhance the management and administration of UNCTAD.

3. The representative of one regional group requested that close and regular follow-up of the implementation of the workplan should continue, with regular updates at sessions of the Board in the lead up to UNCTAD XIV in 2016.

4. The representative of another regional group and one delegation underlined that the sessions of the Board should be on substantive issues, which were of greater relevance and importance to developing countries.

5. The representatives of some regional groups underscored the importance of improving results-based management and strengthening the oversight function. One representative urged the secretariat to specify concrete actions and timelines in implementing the results-based management framework. The representative of another regional group noted that adequate resources should be allocated towards monitoring and evaluation functions in order to better support decision-making and accountability.

6. Some delegations welcomed efforts towards improved communications, including better use of web statistics. Some other delegations requested that a directory of UNCTAD staff be made available. The representative of one regional group urged UNCTAD to optimize the Delegates Portal in relation to disseminating information to member States.

7. The representative of one regional group recommended that the secretariat further reduce the dissemination of hard copies of publications, consider more biannual publications, and improve the format of publications. The representatives of some regional groups encouraged the secretariat to ensure greater coherence, especially on flagship reports. One delegation stated that the divergent Internet capacities of countries precluded reliance on electronic modes of dissemination of UNCTAD publications.

8. The representative of one regional group encouraged UNCTAD to further enhance synergies within its three pillars, both internally and externally, and urged avoiding duplication of technical assistance activities in particular.

9. The representative of one regional group encouraged the secretariat to further improve human resources management in a more systematic, efficient and transparent manner, beyond issues of geographical and gender balance, and to continue improving transparency and communications with member States on this subject. The representatives of some other regional groups sought statistics and targets on gender and geographic representation, and one representative requested that the secretariat use performance indicators to show progress made in this area.

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Geneva, 15–26 September 2014
Item 16 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the report on credentials

Draft report on credentials

1. The Bureau met on 24 September 2014, in accordance with rule 17 of the Rules of Procedure of the Trade and Development Board, to examine the credentials of representatives participating in the sixty-first session.

2. The UNCTAD secretariat informed the Bureau that the credentials of representatives, as provided in rule 17 of the Rules of Procedure, had been received for the sixty-first session of the Trade and Development Board.

3. The President proposed that the Bureau accept the credentials of representatives participating in the sixty-first session of the Trade and Development Board.

4. The Bureau found the credentials of the representatives to be in good order.

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Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 15 to 26 September 2014

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President's summary

Other business

(Agenda item 18)

Draft provisional agenda for the sixtieth executive session of the Trade and Development Board

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

2. *The Least Developed Countries Report 2014: Growth with Structural Transformation – A Post-2015 Development Agenda*

3. Report of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget on its sixty-ninth session

4. Other business

5. Report of the Trade and Development Board on its sixtieth executive session.